

(b) whether the Y.K. Alagh Committee constituted in this regard had submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features/recommendations contravening the report of Expert Group;

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendation of the Group; and

(e) the time-frame by which the New Urea Policy would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to review the effectiveness of Stage-I and II of New Pricing Scheme and to formulate a policy for urea units for Stage-III beyond 31-3-2006. The Committee has submitted its report in December, 2005. A policy for Stage-III of New Pricing Scheme for urea units based on the recommendations of the Alagh Committee is under consideration of the Government.

### **Sugar stock, export and prices**

1835. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar stocks in the Country is likely to touch a very low level of 2.5 million tonnes by the end of November, 2006 posing a threat to inflationary trend that remains unabated; and

(b) whether Government have decided not to open up sugar exports before December, 2006 due to fear of domestic prices shooting up on speculation; and whether sugar prices have already shot up with export ban still in place and is likely to touch Rs. 24/-per kg. level by year end?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Government has taken no such decision not to open up sugar exports before December, 2006. At present, the retail prices of non-levy sugar are in the range of Rs. 17.50-21.00 per Kg. except in Aizawl where it is Rs. 25.00 per Kg.